

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 8 are now pending in this application. In response to the non-final Office Action dated March 11, 2005, claims 1 through 5 have been amended and new claims 6 through 8 have been added. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. Favorable reconsideration of the application as now amended is respectfully solicited.

Objection was made to claim 3 for being dependent from rejected parent claims 1 and 2. Claim 3 was held to be allowable subject to its presentation in appropriate independent form. In response, claim 3, together with the original recitations of claims 1 and 2, has been presented as new independent claim 6. Claim 6, therefore, is now allowable.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 again have been rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Ker, of record. Claim 5 again has been rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narita, of record, in view of Ker. Ker has been relied upon in the latter rejection, at paragraph 2, for concluding that it would have been obvious to use a plurality of diodes in Narita.

Claims 1 through 5 have been amended to require in each claim that at least a portion of the internal circuit is formed with a thin film transistor and each diode element is formed with a thin film transistor. With this feature, since the protection circuit and the internal circuit are formed with the same thin film transistor element, an additional process for forming the protection circuit is not required. It is submitted that neither Ker nor Narita discloses this feature, nor would such provision have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Each of claims 1 through 5 recites that each diode element is formed with a thin film transistor having its gate and drain connected together. This arrangement is applicable whether the transistor is P type or N type. Claim amendments further have been added for conditions for conduction of the second diode element in claim 1, the fourth diode element in

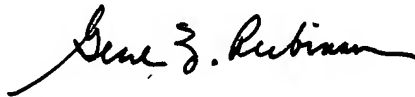
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claim 2, the second diode element in claim 4, and the second and fourth diode elements in claim 6. New claim 7, dependent from claim 1, adds a requirement that the protection circuit is isolated after the inspection. New claim 8, dependent from claim 7, further requires that the semiconductor device is a portion of a liquid crystal display device such as described with respect to Fig. 1.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Z. Robinson", written in a cursive style.

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